

**Remarks**

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-8 are amended.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claims 4-6 and 8 include allowable subject matter.

Reconsideration of the rejections presented in the Office Action based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

**II. The Claims Satisfy The Requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 3 and 8 are amended to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

**II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Dieter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,839); and claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Ferrara (U.S. Patent No. 6,142,332) or Berger (DE 198 42 157) or Weidt (DE 35,16,846). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references teach or even suggest a covered food storage container including, inter alia, a cover having inwardly extending lips for securing the food cutting board to the cover, as recited in claim 1. This feature is related to the allowable features recited in claims 5 and 6.

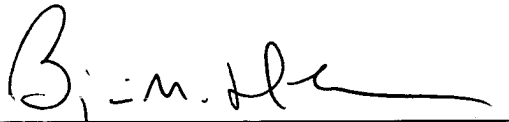
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8 are in condition for allowance. The dependent claims are also allowable for the reasons discussed above as well as for the additional features they recite.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If any further fees are required to preserve the pendency of the subject application, please debit Deposit Account No. 01-1785. Likewise, if there is overpayment, please credit the same account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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